

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. A method of manufacturing a ferric 1,3-PDTA complex, comprising:
 - a) reacting ferrous bromide with unchelated 1,3-PDTA, thereby forming a ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex; and
 - b) conducting an oxidation process wherein the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex is converted to the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidation process comprises aerating the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with an oxidizing gas, contacting the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with hydrogen peroxide or the combination thereof.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the oxidation process comprises aerating the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with air.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the method forms a liquid containing the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex, and wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the liquid for at least about 24 hours at about room temperature.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method forms a liquid containing the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex, and wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the liquid for at least about 2 weeks at about 4°C.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method forms a liquid containing the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex, and wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the liquid for at least about 2 weeks at about 50°C.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein an amount of ferric 1,3-PDTA complex is present prior to the oxidation process.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex forms a salt.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex forms a salt.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex forms a salt of ammonium, sodium, potassium or a mixture thereof.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex forms an ammonium salt.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein ammonium hydroxide is added to the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex formed in step (a).

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex is suitable for use as a bleaching agent in a bleach composition for processing a silver halide color photographic material.

14. A method of processing a silver halide color photographic material, comprising:

- a) forming a bleach composition containing a bleaching agent by a method comprising the steps of:
 - i) reacting ferrous bromide with unchelated 1,3-PDTA, thereby forming a ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex; and
 - ii) conducting an oxidation process wherein the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex is converted to a ferric 1,3-PDTA complex; and

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- b) contacting the bleach composition with the silver halide color photographic material.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the oxidation process comprises aerating the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with an oxidizing gas, contacting the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with hydrogen peroxide or the combination thereof.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the majority of the bleaching agent in the bleach composition is the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the bleaching agent consists of the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the bleach composition for at least about 24 hours at about room temperature.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the bleach composition for at least about 2 weeks at about 4°C.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the bleach composition for at least about 2 weeks at about 50°C.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein at least about 80% of the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex in the bleach composition is manufactured by the oxidation process.

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